

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 4, 1999

LR 29

this resolution says the federal government is positioned, namely that they did not bear the expense, they did not participate in the work, but when it looked like the money was going to be produced, then Nebraska jumped into it. Isn't that true?

SENATOR JENSEN: Nebraska got into it when all of the attorney generals formed a pool, and so the expense would not be as great. I think the former Governor and the Attorney General felt that the expense of filing a lawsuit, on their own, was going to be prohibitive. And so when there was an agreement between the attorney generals of several states, that's when we got involved.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But, at that time, not all the attorneys general of every state were a part, isn't that true?

SENATOR JENSEN: That is true.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And wasn't it... isn't it true that, at the time Nebraska got into it, it was pretty clear that a judgment would go against the tobacco industry and states were going to get some of this money? Isn't that true?

SENATOR JENSEN: Boy, Senator Chambers, I don't know how clear that was in my mind, now it might have been in theirs.

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Jensen. I'm going to use my last minute to make a few comments, then I'll turn my light on. Members of the Legislature, the Attorney General for this state did not want to mess with the tobacco industry. The position of the "Repelicans", in general, was to leave these people alone because they're big people, they make money, they contribute a lot of money, and all this stuff of going after them is inappropriate. And the World-Herald may still be against anything being done. So Nebraskans, in this Legislature who are going to vote for this resolution, would have to include Nebraska among those who'd have to keep their hands off this money, for the same reason and based on the same arguments given for saying the federal government should keep its hands off this